

February 24, 2012

# Weekly Views

PEN Products convened a group of 22 local business owners and faith-based organizations at Harry and Izzy's Northside location. PEN Products detailed the certifications and training that PEN offender workers earn while working in PEN industries. Attendees committed to being on an email string, reviewing offender resumes, interviewing potential post-release workers, and some to mentoring PEN offender workers prior to release.

Gerardo F. Primo Ajuria from the Mexican National Consulate spoke to 75 Mexican nationals at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Offenders received information regarding the rights of foreign nationals arrested or detained in the U.S. and the responsibilities of Consular Officials to assist them.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility (COLCF) staff celebrated the retirement of Connie Miller, a 25 year employee. Mrs. Miller served as Administrative Assistant to eight different Superintendents during her career at COLCF. Commissioner Lemmon and Executive Director Basinger visited the facility to honor Mrs. Miller for her outstanding years of dedication and service and presented her with a Commissioner's coin. Miller was joined by friends, family, and co-workers during a nice luncheon. Superintendent Griffin and staff thank her for her service and wish her the best as she begins a well deserved retirement with a trip to Italy. Everyone at the facility will certainly miss Connie. She was truly an outstanding employee whose work ethic inspired staff as well the offender population.

The 2012 National Institute of Corrections (NIC) Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) training was held at the Correctional Training Institute. OWDS training, presented through a partnership between IDOC, PEN Products and NIC, is an intense three week 180 hour program that focuses on Career Development for the offender and ex-offender population. This year's class includes 24 corrections professionals from Community Corrections, Parole, and the IDOC, plus a team of 10 Department of Workforce Development professionals.

Miami Correctional Facility held a quarterly recall meeting where several employee awards were handed out. Among those receiving Employee of the Quarter awards were Robin Burton, Correctional Employee of the Quarter; Lieutenant Christopher Ertel, Supervisor of the Quarter; and Officer Doug Maurer, Officer of the Quarter. Also receiving awards were Clair Barnes, Challenge the Process Award; Sergeant Craig Stoll, Inspire a Shared Vision Award; Jodi Mann, Enabling Others to Act Award; Sergeant Robin Byrum, Modeling the Way Award; and Sergeant Larry King, Encouraging the Heart award. Staff also received information from University of Phoenix on going back to school.

The American Legion Post 130, an offender organization from the Indiana State Prison, had a food sale fundraiser. They sold \$30,317.26 worth of products to fellow offenders which consisted of Pepsi products, Krispy Kreme Donuts and Papa John's Pizza. A portion of the profits will be donated to Riley's Children's Hospital.

Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) Superintendent Mark Levenhagen is very pleased to announce the facility's most recent promotions filling two critical vacancies. Tommie Horne, currently assigned to the Indiana State Prison, will become WCC's newest Unit Team Manager. WCC Lieutenant Michael Reeves has accepted the promotion to Correctional Captain. Lieutenant Reeves has been a valued employee at the facility since 1985, where he began his career as a Correctional Officer. Congratulations gentlemen!

The Terre Haute Branch of SCORE scored a custom PLUS quilt in thanks for a recent workshop held for Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) offenders. SCORE is a nonprofit group dedicated to education and helping small businesses start, grow and succeed. Retired business leaders from the local chapter met with select WVCF population to discuss how to lay the foundation for a successful small business plan.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) conducted a Security Threat Group (STG) Seminar that was organized and coordinated by PCF Internal Affairs personnel. The event was attended by officials from the Madison County Prosecutor's Office, local and state law enforcement personnel, STG Coordinators from surrounding facilities, and officials representing IDOC Central Office in Indianapolis.

John Cosich, Sunny Akhigbe, and Michael Barry were presented with service awards for their outstanding contribution to the Camp Summit Boot Camp by Superintendent Cecil Davis during the facility's Quarterly Staff Recall. On hand to help recognize the employees was Bob Taylo and Joan Wiseman, members of the Regional Community Advisory Board. During the recall, Camp Summit department heads provided updates from their areas to those in attendance.

Offenders at the Rockville Correctional Facility supported the Parke County Girl Scout Council by purchasing 358 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies. A total of \$1,253 was donated to area Girl Scout Troops through this effort.

Forty Kairos volunteers and 35 offenders had a four day retreat at New Castle Correctional Facility. Everyone enjoyed spiritual lessons and good food.

The Indiana Criminal Justice Association (ICJA) is getting the word out about their organization and the upcoming Annual ICJA Fall Conference. If you'd like to know more about ICJA or the conference, follow them on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ICJA2012>.